



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(43) Date of publication:
30.05.2001 Bulletin 2001/22

(51) Int Cl.7: **H04M 1/725**

(21) Application number: **00310081.5**

(22) Date of filing: **13.11.2000**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE TR
 Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

- **Jin, Liang**
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18103 (US)
- **Luo, Wenzhe**
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18104 (US)
- **Wu, Jian**
Macungie, Pennsylvania 18062 (US)
- **Ma, Zhigang**
Pennsylvania 18104 (US)

(30) Priority: **23.11.1999 US 447284**

(71) Applicant: **LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES INC.**
Murray Hill, New Jersey 07974-0636 (US)

(74) Representative: **Williams, David John et al**
Page White & Farrer,
54 Doughty Street
London WC1N 2LS (GB)

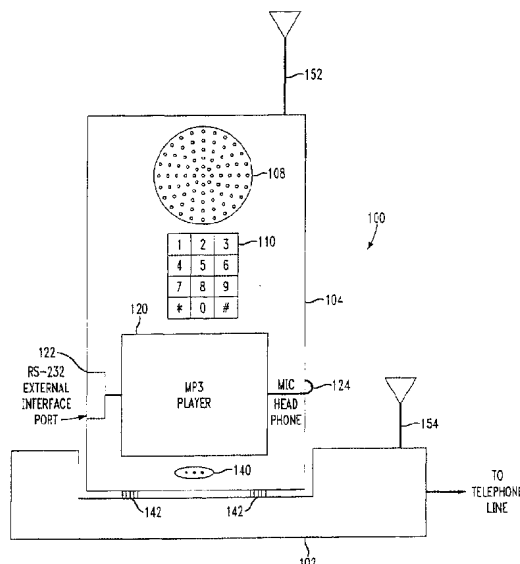
(72) Inventors:
 • **Cao, Qinghong**
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18103 (US)

(54) **Cordless telephone with MP3 player capability**

(57) A cordless telephone which allows a user to play MP3 digital audio bit stream music, a video game, either alone or with a user of another cordless telephone, using the remote handset of a cordless telephone to control the functions of the MP3 player. The cordless telephone remains usable as a typical cordless

telephone with all the features and conveniences of a cordless telephone including, but not limited to, connection of a telephone call between a calling party and a called party, caller ID information, voice messaging features, etc. MP3 digital audio bit stream music may be downloaded from a remote source through, e.g., the Internet and a PC.

FIG. 1



Description

Field Of The Invention

[0001] This invention relates generally to cordless telephones. More particularly, it relates to a cordless telephone which has entertainment functionality beyond the conversational capability of conventional cordless telephones.

Background Of Related Art

[0002] Cordless telephones having a remote handset and a base unit are known in the art. Typically, the base unit is powered by conventional AC current from a household electrical outlet, and the remote handset operates using battery power. To recharge the battery in the remote handset, the remote handset is inserted into a cradle in the base unit for recharging using the AC current of the base unit. However, the remote handset may be separated from the base unit for extended periods of time, allowing the user to carry the remote handset with them as they move about their residence or other locale.

[0003] Conventional cordless telephones further typically include an earpiece and a microphone to allow a user to participate in a conversation in an established telephone call.

[0004] The earlier analog cordless telephones, while still prevalent, are being replaced with newer technology digital cordless telephones. Digital cordless telephones typically use a 900 MHz band and make use of high power digital spread spectrum cordless telephone technology.

[0005] In general, a conventional digital cordless telephone includes a processor in each of the remote handset and in the base unit, and matching radio frequency (RF) units in each of the remote handset and base unit, allowing digital wireless communication between the remote handset and its base unit.

[0006] Cordless telephones have been conventionally limited to conversational use, e.g., for establishing a telephone call, or for providing intercom communications between a remote handset and its base unit. For other functions outside of telephony (particularly portable functions), a user is required to obtain a separate device, and carry around both. While portable devices are useful, there is a point at which a user must decide between which portable devices to carry around at any one time, resulting in use of either the cordless telephone or the other portable device.

[0007] There is a need to expand the uses of a cordless telephone beyond that afforded by conventional cordless telephones.

Summary Of The Invention

[0008] In accordance with the principles of the present

invention, a cordless telephone comprises a remote handset, and a base unit matched to the remote handset. A digital audio bit stream player is integrated within at least one of the remote handset and the base unit.

[0009] A method of integrating a digital bit stream music player in a cordless telephone in accordance with another aspect of the present invention comprises playing pre-loaded MP3 music from a remote handset of a cordless telephone.

Brief Description Of The Drawings

[0010] Features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the following description with reference to the drawings, in which:

[0011] Fig. 1 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary MP3 cordless telephone which allows a user to play MP3 audio downloaded from an external source as well as otherwise conventional cordless telephone functionality, provided in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

[0012] Fig. 2 is a block diagram illustrating the multiplexing of MP3 digital audio with the audio from a telephone conversation, and allowing muting of the MP3 digital audio stream, in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

[0013] Fig. 3 is a detailed diagram of the MP3 player portion of the MP3 remote handset shown in Fig. 1, in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

[0014] Fig. 4 is a diagram showing an exemplary downloading of MP3 digital audio bit stream music from an MP3 digital audio bit stream source available on the Internet. The MP3 digital audio bit stream music is downloaded to a personal computer (PC) from the Internet source, and transferred to the MP3 cordless telephone using a wired or wireless connection between a serial data port of the PC and the serial data port of the MP3 cordless telephone, in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

[0015] Fig. 5 is a block diagram illustrating another embodiment of a MP3 cordless telephone which allows a user to play MP3 audio downloaded from an external source as well as otherwise conventional cordless telephone functionality, provided in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

[0016] Fig. 6 is a diagram showing an exemplary downloading of MP3 digital audio bit stream music from an MP3 digital audio bit stream source available on the Internet to the MP3 cordless telephone embodiment shown in Fig. 5.

Detailed Description Of Illustrative Embodiments

[0017] The present invention relates to a cordless telephone which allows a user to download, store, and play a digitized musical audio stream (e.g., MP3 digital audio stream), using either the keypad of the cordless tele-

phone or a separate, dedicated keypad to control the functions of the MP3 player portion of the cordless telephone. The cordless telephone of the present invention remains usable as a typical cordless telephone with all the features and conveniences of a cordless telephone including, but not limited to, connection of a telephone call between a calling party and a called party, caller ID information, voice messaging features, etc.

[0018] If a user of a conventional MP3 (MPEG encoded music) player goes walking, jogging or biking in his or her neighborhood, he or she cannot receive phone calls to their house or make phone calls from their home phone unless they are also carrying a remote handset of a cordless telephone. Moreover, even if they are carrying a remote handset, use of an MP3 or other audio bit stream player makes it difficult at best to hear the audible ringing of the cordless telephone. For instance, if the user listens to an MP3 player via a headset, they may have difficulty hearing their telephone ringing.

[0019] The present invention provides a new type of portable consumer electronic device, i.e., an MP3 cordless telephone that can be used as a high power cordless telephone and/or as an MP3 player. This allows the user to make and receive telephone calls using a cordless telephone portion of the MP3 cordless telephone, and to listen to audio bit stream music using an audio bit stream (e.g., MP3) player portion of the same MP3 cordless telephone without the risk of missing a telephone call because they did not hear a separate telephone ringing. Moreover, the user may make and receive telephone calls and listen to music whether they are inside their home or office, or in the outside neighborhood surrounding their home or office.

[0020] The present invention combines a high power digital spread spectrum cordless telephone together with the functionality of an MP3 player. In particular, in disclosed embodiments, the base unit of a cordless telephone includes the components of an otherwise conventional high power digital spread spectrum cordless telephone, while the cordless (remote) handset includes the otherwise conventional digital spread spectrum cordless telephone components. However, either the base unit and/or remote handset include an integrated MP3 player together with memory and audio circuitry necessary to allow the remote handset to function as a digital MP3 player.

[0021] In accordance with the principles of the present invention, the MP3 playing remote handset is adapted to mix the MP3 digital music audio stream together with audio corresponding to ring signals from an incoming telephone call to the base unit. The ring signals are preferably at an audio level at or above that of the MP3 digital music audio stream to notify the music listener when the device receives a ring signal from the base station. The base station is installed in the user's house or office, and is connected to a telephone line from a telephone company central office. Once the listener decides to receive the telephone call, they can activate a "phone on"

or similar button to isolate the audio of the telephone call to the user. Preferably, the MP3 digital audio stream is muted with respect to the earpiece of the remote handset. More preferably, the MP3 digital audio stream is paused for the duration of the telephone call, but not necessarily. While the telephone call is activated, the user can use the microphone and earpiece of the remote handset to converse with the caller over the established telephone call.

[0022] In accordance with the principles of the present invention, the user can initiate their own telephone calls using similar principles as when receiving a telephone call. For instance, the "phone on" or similar button can be activated to isolate the audio of the telephone line to the microphone and earpiece of the remote handset. The MP3 digital audio stream is preferably muted, and even more preferably paused, for the duration of the use of the telephone.

[0023] A digital signal processor (DSP) such as Lucent Technologies 1609 with necessary peripherals and memory added to the existing digital cordless phone handset can be used to provide MP3 decoder/player functionality.

[0024] In accordance with the principles of the present invention, the remote handset includes an external data interface port for downloading MP3 music to the audio memory of the remote handset. For instance, an RS-232 serial data port can be used to interface directly with an RS-232 serial data port of a personal computer or other device, e.g., in communication with an MP3 audio source available through the Internet. Compression may be used to transmit the MP3 digital audio data from the computer to the remote handset in an efficient manner.

[0025] One technique for downloading music to the remote handset from a source available via the Internet is to include a modem in the base unit of the cordless telephone. The MP3 digital audio data can be downloaded over the Internet during a convenient period of time (e.g., overnight), or upon demand, and stored in memory either in the base unit or in the remote handset. The downloaded MP3 digital audio data can be transmitted to the remote handset via the RF communication channel between the remote handset and the base unit, either in real time or for storage in the remote handset and later playback.

[0026] For instance, for real time operations, the MP3 digital audio may be stored in the base unit, and transmitted to the remote handset for playback as desired. Alternatively, the MP3 digital audio may be transferred to memory in the remote handset for playback independent from the base unit.

[0027] The present invention enables the user to receive telephone calls while listening to music inside or outside their house. Moreover, it provides functionality of both a telephone and an MP3 player from a common audio device, eliminating the need for separate devices to be purchased by the user. Integration of the MP3 play-

er into a digital cordless telephone also ensures that a user of an MP3 player (particularly one wearing headphones) will be notified of an incoming telephone call while listening to music. Thus, missed telephone calls will be avoided.

[0028] Fig. 1 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary cordless telephone which allows a user to play MP3 audio downloaded from an external source, provided in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

[0029] In particular, in Fig. 1, an MP3 cordless telephone **100** includes an MP3 remote handset **104** and a matching base unit **102**.

[0030] The base unit **102** provides conventional power charging capability to the MP3 remote handset **104** through suitable charge contacts **142** while the MP3 remote handset **104** is cradled in the base unit **102**. Moreover, the base unit **102** provides telecommunications between the MP3 remote handset **104** and a telephone line connected to the base unit **102**.

[0031] The MP3 remote handset **104** includes otherwise conventional cordless telephone components and functionality. For instance, the MP3 remote handset **104** includes a speaker (earpiece) **108** and microphone **140** together with suitable digital-to-analog (D/A) and analog-to-digital (A/D) conversion to allow a user to converse over the telephone line. The MP3 remote handset **104** further includes an antenna **152** and RF transceiver to allow otherwise conventional cordless telephone communications between the MP3 remote handset **104** and the base unit **102**. Advanced features such as frequency hopping and channel selection may be employed as known in the art.

[0032] Importantly, the MP3 remote handset **104** includes an integrated MP3 player **120**. The MP3 player **120** includes an external interface (e.g., an RS-232 interface, a universal serial bus (USB), IEEE-1399 interface, an infrared data association (IRDA) interface, etc.) **122** to allow downloading of audio bit stream data from an appropriate source (e.g., on the Internet via a personal computer (PC)) to appropriate memory in the MP3 player **120**. The MP3 player **120** also preferably includes a stereo output to a headphone jack **124**, although monaural playback can be performed by summing in the MP3 audio bit stream with received telephone conversation and output using the single speaker **108** of the MP3 remote handset.

[0033] The summation of the MP3 audio and telephone conversation may be performed either in digital form (i.e., before conversion to an analog signal for output from the speaker **108** and/or from the headphone jack **124**), or in analog form.

[0034] Fig. 2 is a block diagram illustrating the multiplexing of MP3 digital audio with the audio from a telephone conversation, and allowing muting of the MP3 digital audio stream, in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

[0035] In particular, in Fig. 2, the audio from the tele-

phone line is summed with the MP3 digital audio bit stream in an appropriate digital or analog summer **200**. For clarity purposes, it is preferred that the MP3 digital audio bit stream and the audio from the telephone line be summed in digital form, before being converted to analog signals. Moreover, summation in the digital domain will greatly improve the muting of the MP3 digital audio bit stream as denoted by a figurative switch **202**, particularly when a telephone call is in progress.

[0036] The summation of the monaural audio from the telephone line may be summed into each of the stereo channels of the MP3 digital audio bit stream to improve a sense of balance in the listener.

[0037] Fig. 3 is a detailed diagram relating to the MP3 player portion **120** of the MP3 remote handset **104** shown in Fig. 1, in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

[0038] In particular, Fig. 3 shows the implementation of an MP3 player **120** in an MP3 remote handset **104** of a digital cordless telephone **100** using a high performance processor **320**, and a sufficient amount of erasable Flash Memory **324** to store downloaded MP3 digital audio bit stream music.

[0039] The high performance processor **320** may be any suitable processor, e.g., a microprocessor, a microcontroller, or a digital signal processor (DSP). For instance, the processor used in the disclosed embodiment is a DSP from the LUCENT® DSP1600™ family of processors, and in particular the LUCENT® DSP1609 DSP having approximately **100** MIP performance.

[0040] The MP3 player **120** further includes a dedicated keypad **322**, although multiplexing of an existing keypad such as the alphanumeric keypad associated with the dial pad of the cordless telephone portion of the MP3 cordless telephone **100** may alternatively be implemented.

[0041] The disclosed embodiment of an MP3 remote handset **104** further includes a digital-to-analog converter for each channel of the stereo music. As shown in Fig. 3, a dual channel audio D/A converter **304** (e.g., the commercially available AD1866) is implemented through communication with the DSP **320** using a serial input/output (SIO) communication block **310** in the DSP.

[0042] There are many architectures allowing display of information relating to the MP3 player. In the disclosed embodiment, a serial communication link, e.g., an I²C serial communication link, is used to pass data for display from the DSP **320** to a display driver **306**.

[0043] The disclosed display is a liquid crystal display (LCD). Using an I²C serial communication link from the DSP **320**, the display driver **306** is a suitable I²C capable display driver.

[0044] As implemented, the DSP1600™ processor (e.g. DSP1609™) can decode in real time a digital MP3 audio bit stream, as well as handling other MP3 player functions such download, display messages on a LCD, supporting audio D/A, key functions such as play, stop, forward, backward, repeat, etc. Using a high perform-

ance DSP such as the DSP1600™ family (e.g., DSP1609™), a high performance/low cost solution is provided.

[0045] The MP3 player 120 in the MP3 remote handset 104 performs the basic functions found in commercially available stand alone MP3 player devices: (1) Downloading of MP3 digital audio bit stream data; (2) Playing MP3 digital audio bit stream data; (3) Allowing operator keypress control; and (4) Displaying MP3 status information to the user.

(1) Downloading of MP3 digital audio bit stream data

[0046] IOPA[3:7] and IOPD2 of the Lucent® DSP1609™ are connected to TD, RD, RTS, CTS, DSR, DR of an RS-232 port of a personal computer (PC) to accept a download of MP3 digital audio, e.g., from a source available to the PC over the Internet.

[0047] Fig. 4 is a diagram showing an exemplary downloading of MP3 digital audio bit stream music from an MP3 digital audio bit stream source 430 available on the Internet 420. The MP3 digital audio bit stream music is downloaded to a personal computer (PC) 450 from the Internet source 430, and transferred to the MP3 remote handset 104 using a wired (shown) or wireless connection between a serial data port 460 of the PC 450 and the serial data port 122 of the MP3 remote handset 104, in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

[0048] A suitable data transfer program on the PC 450 and an RS-232 driver operating on the DSP 320 of the MP3 player portion 120 of the MP3 remote handset 104 support the download of an MP3 digital audio bit stream from the Internet source 430, through the PC 450, to the DSP 320 of the MP3 remote handset 104 through an appropriate RS-232 port 122.

[0049] The DSP 320 stores the downloaded MP3 digital audio bit stream to suitable mass storage memory, e.g., to a serial flash memory device 324 (e.g. Toshiba TC58256, 32Mx 8-bit in the disclosed embodiment).

[0050] A DSP driver adapted to interface the serial flash memory device 324 to the DSP 320 is implemented in the DSP 320. For example, in the DSP1609™ device shown in Fig. 3, pins IOPC[8:1], IOPB7, IOPB [3:0], and IOPD3 are used.

(2) Playing MP3 digital audio bit stream data

[0051] To play an MP3 digital audio bit stream previously downloaded and stored in the Flash memory 324, the MP3 digital audio bit stream is continuously read from the flash memory 324 to the internal RAM of the DSP 320, then decoded by the DSP core and converted to an analog signal using the dual channel audio D/A 304. A suitable MP3 digital audio bit stream decoding program is implemented to run on the DSP 320. The reconstructed high quality audio signal (16-bit) is transmitted to the serial input/output (SIO) port 310 of the

DSP 320, which drives the dual channel (i.e., stereo) digital-to-analog (D/A) converter 304.

[0052] In accordance with the principles of the present invention, the audio from the telephone line can be summed within the DSP 320, or can be summed in analog form external to the DSP 320 subsequent to the dual channel audio D/A 304. The audio from the telephone line is digitized by an appropriate digital-to-analog converter (e.g., a codec), and provided to the DSP 320.

(3) Allowing operator keypress control

[0053] In the disclosed embodiment shown in Fig. 3 using a separate, dedicated keypad 322, input pins of the DSP 320 are used to decode keypress commands input by the user into the keypad 322. For instance, as shown in Fig. 3, the IOPA[2:0] pins of the DSP1609™ having interrupt capability are used to implement the MP3 player key functions such as PLAY, STOP, PAUSE, FW (forward), BW (backward), F.FW(fast forward), F. BW(fast backward), and REPEAT.

(4) Displaying MP3 status information to the user

[0054] The display used to display MP3 player functionality may be the same display used for the cordless telephone functionality. Thus, Caller ID may be shown on the same display as the MP3 player status. Of course, separate displays are within the principles of the present invention.

[0055] In Fig. 3, the DSP 320 generates and transmits any of a plurality of messages relating to the MP3 player status to the display driver 306 for display to the user. For example, the length of music stored and downloaded to the Flash memory 324 may be shown, the number of songs stored in the Flash memory 324, the elapsed time of each song stored in the Flash memory 324, etc. may be passed to the display driver 306 for display to the user.

[0056] In the disclosed embodiment, a serial link between the DSP1609™ and the display driver 306 is used. For instance, an I²C LCD driver is implemented in the DSP 320 using, e.g., the IOPDO and IOPD1 pins of the DSP1609™. In the disclosed embodiment, the DSP 320 is established as the I²C master. Thus, the DSP 320 includes a master mode I²C driver using the IOPDO and IOPD1 pins to form a suitable I²C interface. For instance, the serial clock (SCL) and serial data (SDA) signals of the I²C protocol are formed using the IOPDO and IOPD1 pins of the DSP1609™, respectively, and operated in accordance with the I²C protocol.

[0057] Moreover, in accordance with the principles of the present invention, an audible ring may be included in the output audio bit stream music so that a user listening to the MP3 music may hear the telephone ringing along with their music. To this extent, a synthesized tone may be summed with the played MP3 digital audio bit

stream music at a level which is preferably distinctly audible to the user. The tone is preferably summed within the DSP **320** in digital form, but may be summed after the dual channel audio D/A **304** in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

[0058] Of course, it is within the principles of the present invention to utilize an audible ring from a ringer in an otherwise conventional fashion.

[0059] While the disclosed embodiments of the present invention relate to the integration of a player of audio bit stream such as MP3 through the remote handset speaker **108** and/or headphone jack **124**, the principles of the present invention relate equally to integration of the MP3 player capabilities primarily in the MP3 remote handset **103**, primarily in the base unit **102** of the MP3 cordless telephone **100**, or integrated with substantial portions of the MP3 player **120** in both the MP3 remote handset **104** and in the base unit **102**.

[0060] For instance, Fig. 5 is a block diagram illustrating another embodiment of a MP3 cordless telephone **500** which allows a user to play MP3 audio downloaded from an external source as well as otherwise conventional cordless telephone functionality, provided in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

[0061] In particular, as shown in Fig. 5, the download portion of the MP3 player is implemented within the base unit **502**, e.g., an RS-232 serial interface **522** and mass storage (e.g., RAM storage **585**) for storing the downloaded digital music. The base unit **102** further includes a digital sample summer **540** to sum at least one (and perhaps both) channels of the stereo MP3 digital audio bit stream with the telephone line audio received by the telephone line interface **530** and digitized by a suitable analog-to-digital (A/D) converter **597**. The digital music is decoded and converted to analog in an MP3 player **120a** in the remote handset **504**.

[0062] In the embodiment shown in Fig. 5, the summed digital data is combined and transmitted via the cordless telephone RF transceiver **550** of the base unit **102** to the MP3 remote handset **504**.

[0063] Preferably, the MP3 remote handset **504** includes MP3 player keypad controls allowing standard operation of an MP3 player, e.g., PLAY, REW, FFWD, etc. The selected MP3 player commands are preferably included in header information transmitted by the MP3 remote handset **504** to the MP3 base unit **502**, and received and suitably processed by the DSP of the MP3 player **120a**.

[0064] Other embodiments are possible within the principles of the present invention locating all or a portion of a digital audio bit stream player either in the base unit, in the remote handset, or distributed between the base unit and the remote handset. For instance, a digital audio bit stream may be received through an interface port in a base unit of a digital cordless telephone as shown in Fig. 5, but instead of being stored in the base unit may be transmitted either in the original data form or in a re-digitized form to the remote handset. The com-

munication between the base unit and the remote handset may be through any suitable technique, e.g., by insertion into the data packets communicated via the RF transceivers of the base unit and remote handset, through the charge contacts **142** with appropriate filtering to separate the transmitted data signal from the charge current, etc. Moreover, once received by the remote handset, the MP3 digital audio bit stream (or re-digitized audio bit stream) may be played either substantially in real-time as received by the remote handset, or stored in appropriate storage (e.g., RAM or Flash memory) in the remote handset and subsequently accessed by the user for later playback.

[0065] If the data bit stream contains a large amount of data, it may be loaded into the cordless telephone during periods of non-use of the cordless telephone, e.g., overnight.

[0066] Fig. 6 is a diagram showing an exemplary downloading of MP3 digital audio bit stream music from an MP3 digital audio bit stream source **430** available on the Internet **420** to the MP3 cordless telephone **500** embodiment shown in Fig. 5.

[0067] In particular, the MP3 digital audio bit stream is downloaded similar to that shown and described with respect to Fig. 4, but using the RS-232 serial interface port **422** of the MP3 base unit **402** of the MP3 cordless telephone shown in Fig. 5.

[0068] Preferably, MP3 digital audio bit stream music can be downloaded to the MP3 remote handset **104**, **504** either while it is cradled in the base unit **102**, **502** or when it is remote from the base unit **102**, **502**. However, lengthy downloads may best be performed while the MP3 remote handset **104**, **504** is cradled and thus powered by the base unit **102**, **502**.

[0069] Accordingly, an MP3 cordless telephone in accordance with the principles of the present invention combines MP3 or other format digital bit stream portable music player functionality with conventional cordless telephone functionality to provide a singular device capable of allowing sophisticated entertainment as well as cordless telephone use. Such an MP3 cordless telephone having MP3 player capability allows a user to listen to portable digital music in a low cost and easily accessible product without risk of missing a telephone call.

Claims

1. A cordless telephone, comprising:

a remote handset;

a base unit matched to said remote handset; and

a digital audio bit stream player integrated within at least one of said remote handset and said base unit.

2. The cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein:
said digital audio bit stream player is integrated within said remote handset.
3. The cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein:
said digital audio bit stream player is an MPEG audio player.
4. The cordless telephone according to claim 3, wherein:
said MPEG audio player is an MP3 player.
5. The cordless telephone according to claim 2, wherein:
said digital audio bit stream player is an MP3 player.
6. A method of integrating a digital bit stream music player in a cordless telephone, comprising:
playing MP3 music from a remote handset of a cordless telephone.
7. The method of integrating a digital bit stream music player in a cordless telephone according to claim 6, wherein:
said MP3 music is pre-loaded before said step of playing.
8. The method of integrating a digital bit stream music player in a cordless telephone according to claim 7, wherein:
said MP3 music is played substantially real-time as it is received by said cordless telephone.
9. The method of integrating a digital bit stream music player in a cordless telephone according to claim 6, further comprising:
muting said playing of said pre-loaded MP3 music when said remote handset is active in a current telephone call.
10. The method of integrating a digital bit stream music player in a cordless telephone according to claim 8, wherein:
said muting pauses said playing of said pre-loaded MP3 music.
11. The method of integrating a digital bit stream music player in a cordless telephone according to claim 6, further comprising:
downloading digital bit stream music to said remote handset from a remote bit stream audio source.
12. The method of integrating a digital bit stream music player in a cordless telephone according to claim 11, further comprising:
storing said downloaded digital bit stream music in a base unit of said cordless telephone.
13. The method of integrating a digital bit stream music player in a cordless telephone according to claim 11, further comprising:
storing said downloaded digital bit stream music in said remote handset of said cordless telephone.
14. The method of integrating a digital bit stream music player in a cordless telephone according to claim 13, wherein:
said downloaded digital bit stream music is stored in Flash memory in said remote handset.
15. The method of integrating a digital bit stream music player in a cordless telephone according to claim 11, wherein:
said remote bit stream audio source is accessible by said remote handset via an Internet.
16. The method of integrating a digital bit stream music player in a cordless telephone according to claim 11, wherein:
said digital bit stream music is comprised in an MPEG format.
17. The method of integrating a digital bit stream music player in a cordless telephone according to claim 16, wherein:
said MPEG format is an MP3 format.
18. Apparatus for integrating a digital bit stream music player in a cordless telephone, comprising:
means for playing pre-loaded MP3 music from a remote handset of a cordless telephone.
19. The apparatus for integrating a digital bit stream music player in a cordless telephone according to claim 18, further comprising:
means for muting said playing of said pre-loaded MP3 music when said remote handset is active in a current telephone call.
20. The apparatus for integrating a digital bit stream music player in a cordless telephone according to claim 19, wherein:
said means for muting pauses said playing of said pre-loaded MP3 music.
21. The apparatus for integrating a digital bit stream music player in a cordless telephone according to claim 18, further comprising:
means for downloading digital bit stream music to said remote handset from a remote bit stream audio source.

22. The apparatus for integrating a digital bit stream music player in a cordless telephone according to claim 21, further comprising:
means for storing said downloaded digital bit stream music in a base unit of said cordless telephone. 5
23. The apparatus for integrating a digital bit stream music player in a cordless telephone according to claim 21, further comprising: 10
means for storing said downloaded digital bit stream music in said remote handset of said cordless telephone.
24. The apparatus for integrating a digital bit stream music player in a cordless telephone according to claim 23, wherein: 15
said means for storing stores said downloaded digital bit stream music in Flash memory in said remote handset. 20
25. The apparatus for integrating a digital bit stream music player in a cordless telephone according to claim 21, wherein: 25
said remote bit stream audio source is accessible by said remote handset via an Internet.
26. The apparatus for integrating a digital bit stream music player in a cordless telephone according to claim 21, wherein: 30
said digital bit stream music is comprised in an MPEG format.
27. The apparatus for integrating a digital bit stream music player in a cordless telephone according to claim 26, wherein: 35
said MPEG format is an MP3 format.
28. The apparatus for integrating a digital bit stream music player in a cordless telephone according to claim 21, further comprising: 40
means for decompressing MPEG formatted music into digital music samples for digital to analog output. 45

50

55

FIG. 1

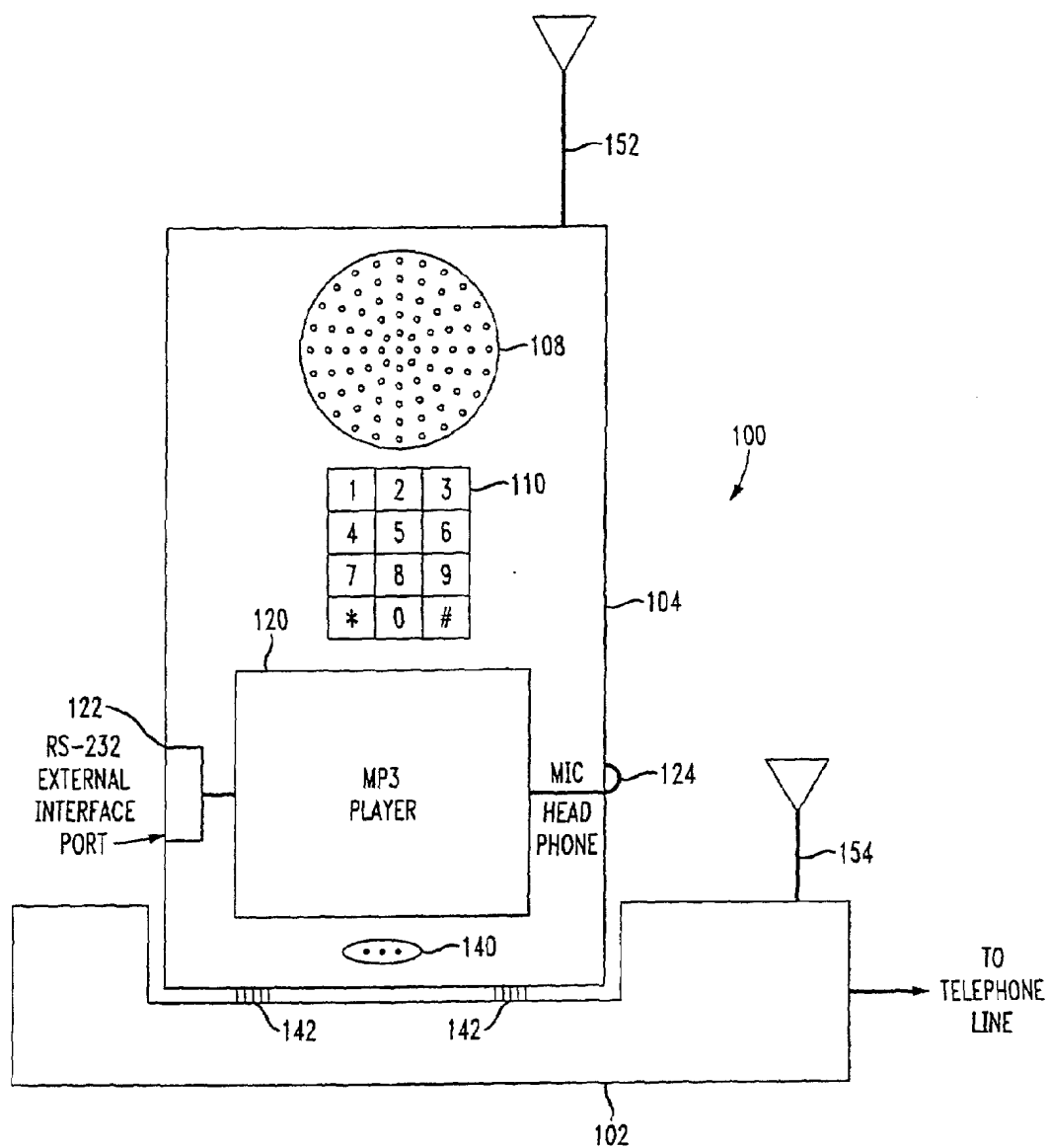


FIG. 2

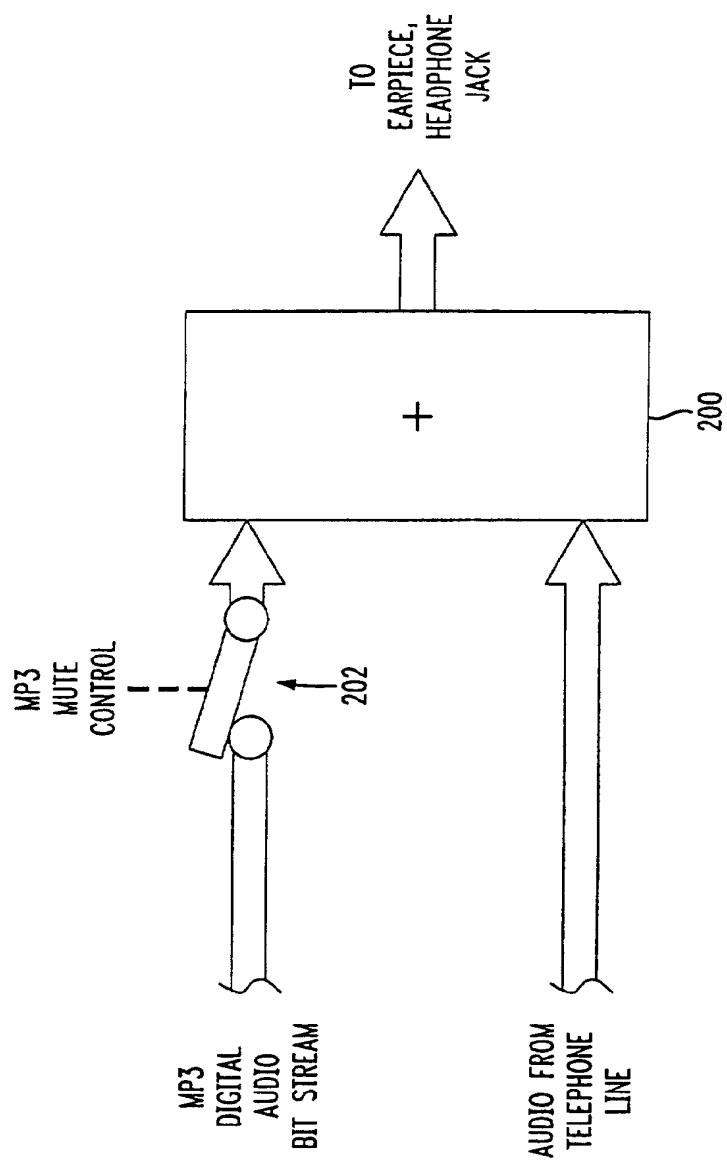


FIG. 3

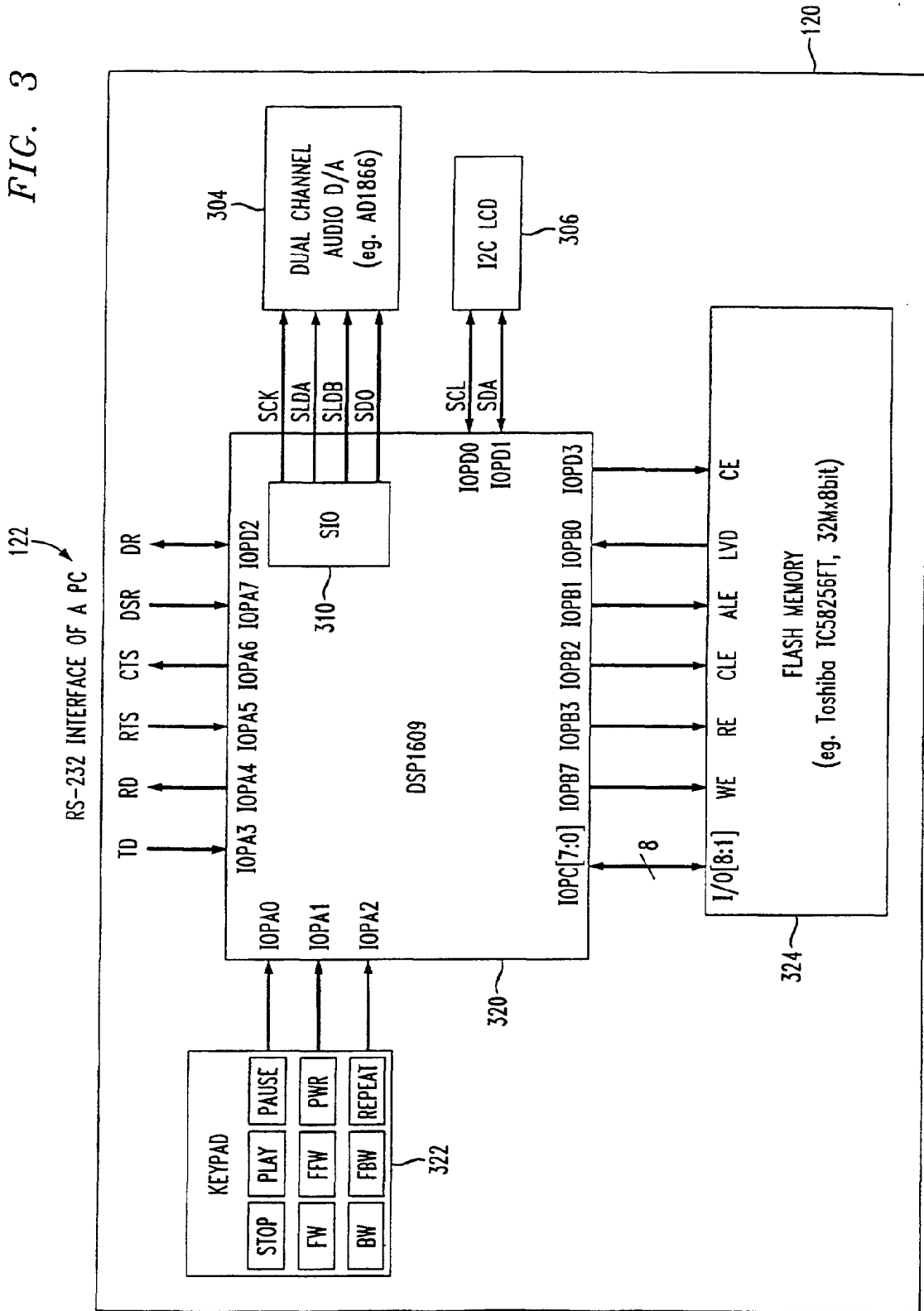


FIG. 4

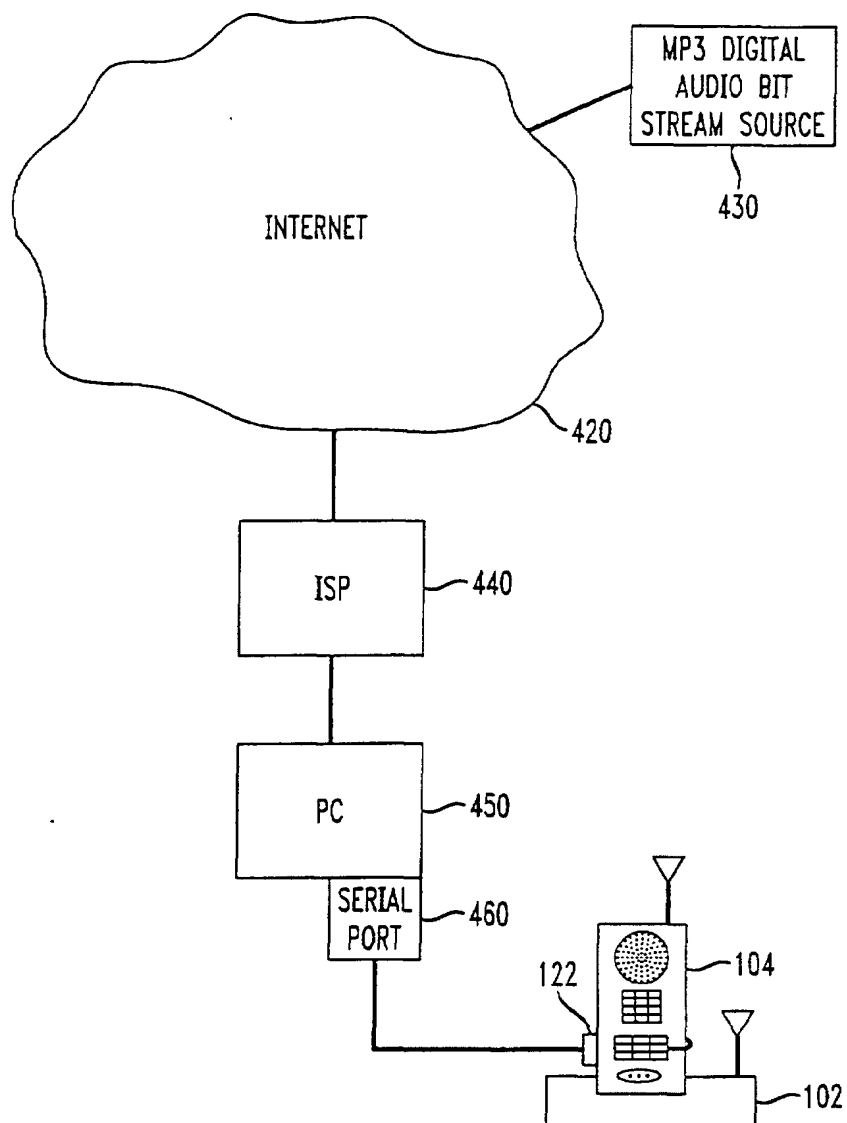


FIG. 5

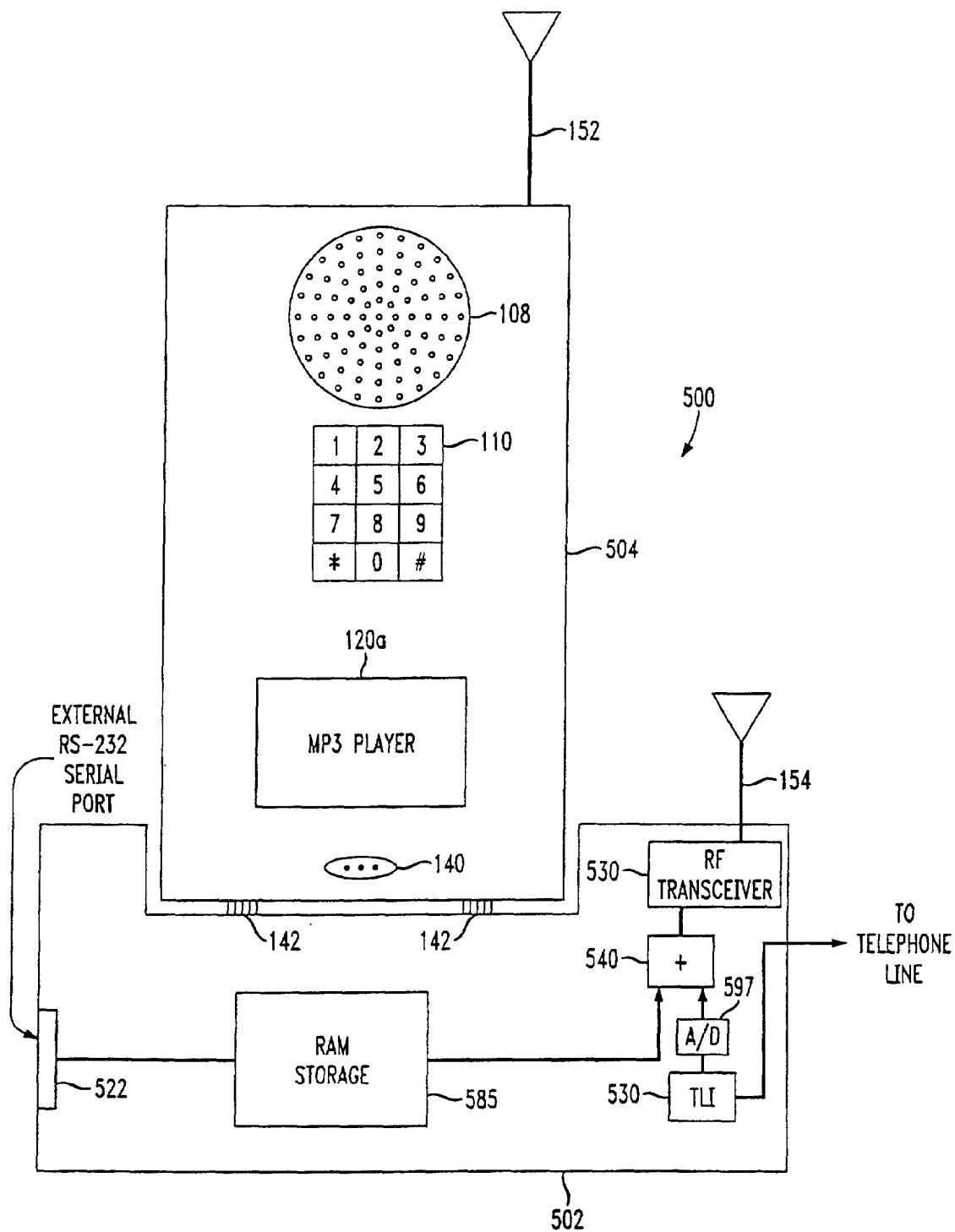


FIG. 6

